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The Files - Contract RD-103, T.O. 5

30 December 1958

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Trip Report - AS-5

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1. A visit was made by [redacted] to the [redacted] on 8 and 9 December to monitor progress on Contract RD-103, Task Order 5, the development and fabrication of the AS-5 system. 25X1A9a  
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2. Arrangements are being made by the contractor for training our personnel and one [redacted] man in January 1959 on the Soroban high speed tape punches at the Soroban plant in Melbourne, Florida. A price of \$125,000 has been established for a complete AS-5 terminal exclusive of cryptographic equipment. Delivery of a prototype AS-5 is still scheduled for June 1959. A plan for an AS-5 engineering test in May is being drawn up by the contractor. The KX-3 transistorized cryptographic equipment will not be available for the test in May 1959. However, arrangements are being made to obtain KX-4 field crypto equipment from NSA on a loan basis for the test period. KX-3 and KX-4 cryptos are compatible and will be able to be interoperated for the purposes of the test.

3. The contractor states that the power amplifier to be used for the AS-5 equipment will be difficult to service. The 1-kilowatt power amplifier is one cubic foot in size with the components sealed in a fluorochemical liquid. This permits the use of smaller capacitors and coils than would be used in a conventional power amplifier. The compactness and configuration of this power amplifier will make servicing difficult. However, due to the AS-5's reduced size requirement and time schedule, it isn't feasible to change the approach to the power amplifier at this time. The contractor will be asked to take another look at this problem in an attempt to make servicing less difficult.

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OC-E/R&D-EP/PCV:wlj  
CC: R&D Subject File  
    Monthly Report (2)  
    R&D Lab  
    R&D Chrono  
    EP Chrono

(30 December 1958)

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